

Testimony in support of:
S.B. No. 4: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT CLEAN AIR ACT

Dear Honorable Co-chairs Cohen, Gresko, Haskell, and Lemar,

My name is Andrew Engel and I am a freshman at Wesleyan University. As a member of the climate action group Sunrise Movement Wesleyan, I find it imperative to write to you in support of S.B. No. 4, An Act Concerning The Connecticut Clean Air Act. This act would encourage electric vehicle use and would greatly benefit environmental justice communities.

As a four year resident of Middletown who stays here the full year, I care about the air quality of our area, and as a former resident of the Northwest Indiana, one of the three places in the country that requires vehicle emissions testing due to the poor air quality of the region. It is imperative to bring about electric vehicle use to lower the air emissions, and incentivize and increase the access of electric vehicle use for Connecticut residents. I implore you to seek this legislative action as a way to deeply reduce carbon air emissions.

As the climate crisis intensifies, it is crucial to take steps towards a green future in which all have equitable access to resources. This act prioritizes environmental justice communities, those most exposed to toxicity and environmental degradation, especially marginalized and vulnerable groups such as communities of color. It would also further the mitigation of carbon emissions to limit climate change, and has multiple methods for increasing renewable and electric energy use. About 73% of youth say they currently feel the effects of climate change, according to a UN survey. As such, it is critical to support S.B. No. 4 to take action for this generation and the ones to come.

Regards,

Andrew Engel